

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 12 and 22 are currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-36 are pending.

The applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 10, 14-15, 17-21 and 23-36.

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 16 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chi (US 5,575,540). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

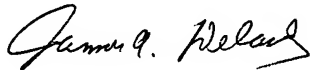
Independent claims 1 and 22 have been amended to clarify that the radially outer portion of the support (claim 1) or the radially outer surface of the base member (claim 22) faces the inner peripheral surface of the adapter member across the space.

Chi discloses a bicycle hub with a hub shell (50) and an axle (60) rotatably supported within hub shell (50) by bearings (90). A dust cap (71) is screwed into hub shell (50) such that external threads (711) on dust cap (71) engage internal threads (51) on hub shell (50). A fixing ring (72) screws onto the external threads (711) on dust cap (71) and abuts against a side edge of hub shell (50) to fix dust cap (71) to hub shell (50). Insofar as dust cap (71) is interpreted to be a support, then there is no space between a radially outer portion or surface of the support and an adapter member such that the radially outer portion of the support faces the inner peripheral surface of the adapter member across the space. Also, there is no suggestion to form such a space between dust cap (71) and hub shell (50) because that would destroy the threaded coupling between dust cap (71) and hub shell (50).

The office action indicates that, no matter how tightly two objects are fit together, there will always be a space between them. That may be true at the atomic level, but at the atomic level the surfaces of the support and the adapter member would become undiscernable. Accordingly, the claims have been amended to clarify that the space must be able to be ascertained by the outer portion of the support facing the inner peripheral surface of the adapter member across the space.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 has been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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